

CLAIMS

WE CLAIM:

1. For a CANOpen network including a bus master and an I/O module, each
5 communicatively coupled to a common bus, wherein the I/O module is subject to a state
change, a method of permitting the bus master to collect state information from the I/O
module, the method comprising:

determining if the bus master is prepared to receive further data from the
bus;

10 sending a trigger signal from the bus master to the I/O module if the bus
master is prepared to receive further data from the bus ; and

sending a state signal from the I/O module to the bus master in response to
the trigger signal.

15 2. The method of claim 1 including a plurality of I/O modules, each
communicatively coupled to the common bus, wherein each of the I/O modules is subject
to a state change, the method comprising:

determining if the bus master is prepared to receive further data from the
bus;

20 sending a trigger signal from the bus master to a selected one of the I/O
modules if the bus master is prepared to receive further data from the bus; and

sending a state signal from the selected I/O module to the bus master in
response to the trigger signal.

25 3. The method of claim 2 comprising:

configuring a plurality of the I/O modules as a group;

determining if the bus master is prepared to receive further data from the
bus;

30 sending a trigger signal from the bus master to a selected group of the I/O
modules if the bus master is prepared to receive further data from the bus; and

sending a state signal from each I/O module of the selected group of I/O
modules to the bus master in response to the trigger signal.

35 4. The method of claim 3 wherein the group of I/O modules is less than the
total plurality of I/O modules.

5. For a CANOpen network including a bus master and a plurality of I/O modules, each communicatively coupled to a common bus, wherein the plurality of I/O modules are configured as a plurality of groups of I/O modules, and each of the I/O modules is subject to a state change, a method of permitting the bus master to collect state information from a selected group of I/O modules, the method comprising:

determining if the bus master is prepared to receive further data from the bus;
sending a trigger signal from the bus master to the selected group of I/O modules if the bus master is prepared to receive further data from the bus; and
10 sending a state signal from each of the I/O modules in the selected group to the bus master in response to the trigger signal.

6. A CANOpen network comprising:
a bus master;
15 an I/O module subject to state changes;
a common bus communicatively coupling the bus master and the I/O module, wherein the bus master includes means for sending a trigger signal from the bus master to the I/O module when the bus master is prepared to receive further data from the bus, and the I/O module includes means for sending a state signal from the I/O module to the bus master in response to the trigger signal to permit the bus master to collect state information from the I/O module.

7. The network of claim 6 including a plurality of I/O modules, each communicatively coupled to the common bus, wherein each of the I/O modules is subject to a state change, wherein the bus master includes means for sending a trigger to a selected one of the I/O modules when the bus master is prepared to receive further data from the bus, and the I/O modules include means for sending a state signal from the selected I/O module to the bus master in response to the trigger signal.

8. The network of claim 7, wherein:
a plurality of the I/O modules are configured as a group;
the bus master includes means for sending a trigger signal from the bus master to a selected group of the I/O modules when the bus master is prepared to receive further data from the bus; and
35 each of the I/O modules in the selected group includes means for sending a state signal from each I/O module of the selected group to the bus master in response to the trigger signal.

9. The network of claim 8 wherein the group of I/O modules is less than the total plurality of I/O modules.

5 10. A CANOpen network comprising:
a bus master;
a plurality of I/O modules subject to state changes, wherein the plurality of I/O modules are configured as a plurality of groups of I/O modules, and
a bus communicatively coupling the bus master and each of the I/O
10 modules, wherein the bus master includes means for sending a trigger signal from the bus master to a selected group of I/O modules when the bus master is prepared to receive further data from the bus; and the each of the I/O modules in the selected group includes means for sending a state signal from each of the I/O modules in the selected group to the bus master in response to the trigger signal.

15 11 For a CANOpen network including a bus master and an I/O module, each communicatively coupled to a common bus, wherein the I/O module is subject to a state change, a computer readable medium containing program instructions for execution by the bus master to cause the bus master to perform steps for collecting state information
20 from the I/O module, the method comprising:
selectively sending a trigger signal from the bus master to the I/O module; and
collecting a state signal from the I/O module sent by the I/O module in response to the trigger signal.

25 12. For a CANOpen network including a bus master and a plurality of I/O modules, each communicatively coupled to a common bus, wherein the plurality of I/O modules are configured as a plurality of groups of I/O modules, and each of the I/O modules is subject to a state change, a computer readable medium containing program instructions for execution by the bus master to cause the bus master to perform steps for
30 collecting state information from a selected group of I/O modules, the method comprising:
determining if the bus master is prepared to receive further data from the bus;
sending a trigger signal from the bus master to the selected group of I/O modules
if the bus master is prepared to receive further data from the bus; and
35 collecting a state signal from each of the I/O modules in the selected group sent by the I/O modules in the selected group in response to the trigger signal.